BOROUGH OF WESTWOOD



Administration

TELEPHONE (201) 664-7100 • FAX (201) 664-5340 • 101 WASHINGTON AVENUE • WESTWOOD, NJ 07675

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 9, 2010

Contact: Robert S. Hoffmann, 201-664-7100, ext. 150, rhoffmann@westwoodnj.gov

Westwood Achieves Sustainable JerseyTM Certification Award Presented on November 16 at New Jersey League of Municipalities Conference

Westwood, NJ (November 9, 2010) - Sustainable Jersey representatives announced today that Westwood has met the rigorous requirements to achieve Sustainable Jersey certification. Westwood is one of 67 New Jersey municipalities that have attained certification since the program began in 2009. Westwood will be honored at the Sustainable Jersey awards luncheon on Tuesday, November 16 at the Sheraton Hotel in Atlantic City with Councilwoman Cindy Waneck, accepting the award.

Certification was a 2010 goal of the Borough of Westwood. The Mayor, Council and Administrator are proud to have reached that goal. Mayor John Birkner stated "the award is a validation of the Borough's effort to adhere to our mission to reduce energy consumption, save taxpayers money, reduce the Borough's carbon footprint and provide more efficient and effective services to the residents of the Borough of Westwood."

To become Sustainable Jersey certified at the Bronze level, Westwood submitted documentation to show it had completed a balance of the required sustainability actions, meeting a minimum of 150 points. In addition to reaching the required points, each community had to create a Green Team and select at least two of the six priority actions (for Bronze level). Among other initiatives, the Borough completed a comprehensive Energy Audit for municipal buildings and held an educational kiosk as Westwood Pride Day where residents could pledge to "go green" at home.

Councilwoman Cindy Waneck, the liaison for the Borough's land use and environmental activities, stated "the Borough's Bronze Certification is the result of the efforts of many. Residents on the Borough's Environmental Advisory Committee, a very talented group of volunteers, as well as members of the Borough's Green Team that includes employees from a number of departments, residents and elected officials as well as the Borough's Administrative Assistant played key roles in the effort."

"It's quite an accomplishment to become Sustainable Jersey certified," said Fred Profeta, Chair of the New Jersey League of Municipalities' Mayors' Committee for a Green Future, a Sustainable Jersey program partner. "The 2010 certified towns have joined an elite group of municipalities that are leading the way with impressive sustainability initiatives in New Jersey while providing a model for towns across the United States."



Certified towns excelled in areas such as improving energy efficiency and health and wellness, smart land use transportation, reducing waste, sustaining local economies, protecting natural resources, addressing diversity and equity. "These are exceptional towns with outstanding programs. We've been amazed to see how this program has catalyzed community spirit and fostered grassroots leadership, cross-sector creativity and collaboration across New Jersey," said Donna Drewes of the Municipal Land Use Center at The College of New Jersey (MLUC@TCNJ), a Sustainable Jersey partner. Randall Solomon of the MLUC@TCNJ, congratulated the certified towns. "Our winners are municipal leaders that are making extraordinary contributions toward the long-term goal of a sustainable New Jersey and world."

About Westwood

The Borough of Westwood is in the northeastern part of the State of New Jersey. The Borough is located in the Pascack Valley in the center of Bergen County and is approximately 10 miles northnorthwest of the George Washington Bridge and approximately 7 miles south of the New Jersey-New York state border.

Westwood was officially incorporated as the 'Mayor and Council of the Borough of Westwood' on May 8, 1894, with Isaac D. Bogert serving as the first mayor of the Borough. Today, the Borough has grown to approximately 11,000 residents, with a thriving downtown business district that befits its name as 'The Hub of the Pascack Valley'.

About Sustainable Jersey

<u>Sustainable Jersey</u> is a certification program for municipalities in New Jersey that want to go green, save money, and take steps to sustain their quality of life over the long term. It is the most successful statewide municipal sustainability certification program in the country. Over 6,700 people in New Jersey have participated in statewide training and outreach events in 2010. The program has distributed over half a million dollars to New Jersey communities to support an estimated 1,500 actions taken "on the ground" to make communities more livable, environmentally friendly and prosperous. Over 300 of New Jersey's towns and cities (56%-or 315 towns across all 21 counties) have registered to become Sustainable Jersey certified. By supporting community efforts to reduce waste, cut greenhouse gas emissions, and improve environmental equity, Sustainable Jersey is empowering New Jersey towns to build a better world for future generations.

Sustainable Jersey is a collaborative effort between the New Jersey State League of Municipalities' Mayors' Committee for a Green Future and the Municipal Land Use Center at The College of New Jersey, in partnership with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, and the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities. The policies and other substantive contents of the program are developed though a transparent participatory process involving NGOs, academics, government, and the business community. Program sponsors include the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, PSEG Foundation, New Jersey Natural Gas, Church and Dwight, Covanta Energy, Elizabethtown Gas, United Water, Verizon, Atlantic City Electric and CDS-Xerox. www.sustainablejersey.com

Robert S. Hoffmann